

Life Cycle of a Road

THE FACTS

1. Project Identification

The Statewide Transportation Planning process uses data collected from a series of management systems, corridor inventories, and other special programs, combined with public input, to develop strategies and projects that improve the transportation system. Corridor inventories compile information on current roadway conditions, right-of-way, pavement width, current and predicted traffic volumes, accident reports, and other significant information concerning the roadway.

improvements. The document is then submitted to the appropriate agency for approval.

4. Design

A project's design phase can include a myriad of elements depending on the project's scope. Some projects only entail minor roadway and signal improvements, while others require new interchanges and complex structures. Once a project's design is finalized, it is advertised for a contractor's bid.

2. Funding Acquisition

Once a project is identified, funding must be acquired to design and construct it. The funding process is complex and time consuming, and many projects compete for the same available funding. Several entities, including federal, state, and local governments, work to prioritize projects according to the needs identified in the corridor inventory. This helps allocate funds where they are most needed.



5. Construction

Once a contractor is selected, coordination takes place for construction to begin. Every project is different so construction activities vary greatly from one project to the next.

6. Maintenance

Proper maintenance activities can prolong the life of a roadway by many years. These operations include seal coating, chip sealing, crack repairs, and rotomills and overlays (re-paving).

3. Environmental Study

Most environmental studies involve assessing impacts and determining whether those impacts comply with environmental laws and regulations. These laws and regulations are in place to protect cultural and historical resources; rare, threatened, and endangered species; and environmental justice requirements. They also regulate water, air, noise, and hazardous material impacts resulting from the proposed improvements. Some environmental studies result in a document that presents a preferred alternative option for transportation

To Learn More

UDOT is committed to being responsive to public concerns and questions. If you'd like additional information about the life cycle of a road, please contact us at 801-965-4000 or contact a project representative with whom you've been working.